

VOLUME 105

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023

*from the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.*

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

As we begin the month of November, I must thank so many people who attended the Seelos Healing Mass last month. It was the largest crowd we had in years! The music ensemble was magnificent, the volunteers warmly welcomed our guests, and my friend and classmate, Father John Fahey-Guerra, C.Ss.R. gave a moving homily on Seelos' joy and humility that enabled him to courageously serve the sick, the destitute, the immigrant, and the marginalized. Visitors to the Seelos Center continue to comment on what a lovely Eucharistic celebration they experienced. Thank you to our Seelos Center staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

November is the month that the Church universal commemorates the "Saints and the Souls." We remember the holy women and men who gave us stellar examples of faith and holiness, as well as our beloved ancestors who are now with God. In his relatively short life, our beloved saintly Francis Xavier Seelos taught us how to faithfully live as disciples of Christ and how to prepare to live with God eternally. Many accounts of this Redemptorist "cheerful ascetic's" life have been written, but I was drawn to our former director's Redemptorist Father Richard Boever's book, *Zealous Missionary: from the perspective of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos* (Liguori Publications, 2021). Father Boever writes from a first-person perspective—with Seelos offering his life's narrative. In the book is a compelling telling of Seelos' final moments:

*"I went through all the horrors of the disease and was embarrassed by not being able to care for myself. I knew I would die. I told the community how blessed it was to die in the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. I urged them all to value their vocation. I apologized to them for my shortcomings and inadequacies. Finally, on Friday, October 4, at 5:50 in the evening, I passed from this life to everlasting life. I was laid out that evening and all night in the church, then buried the next day beneath the statue of Our Mother of Sorrows, which I blessed while I was active in the parish."*

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. went home to Heaven in the manner in which he lived on earth, humbly and resigned to the will of God. We pray that this holy Soul rests in eternal peace and pray that his powerful intercession be with us.

May Father Seelos and all your faithfully departed ancestors continue to watch over you from Heaven above.



In the redeeming love of Christ,

*Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R.*

Father Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.

*Director, National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.*

★ To learn how you can  
volunteer for a Seelos Healing  
Mass, call (504) 525-2495. ★

# New artwork honors hero of Cumberland

By George P. Matysek Jr., *Catholic Review*



Wayman Scott IV looks at a statue he sculpted of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. The statue was installed on the same grounds at the Shrine of Ss. Peter and Paul in Cumberland where he was a former pastor. (Courtesy Wayman Scott IV)

Wayman Scott IV didn't know anything about Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos when some Catholics in Western Maryland contacted him about creating a statue of the German Redemptorist priest for an outdoor shrine in his honor.

As he delved into the life of the heroic 19th-century missionary, however, Scott became a huge fan.

"He was so giving and he wanted to support those who were in need," said Scott, a parishioner of Church of the Nativity in Timonium and a sculptor based at Baltimore Clayworks in Mount Washington.

Scott, himself a Black Catholic, noted that in addition to serving German immigrants, Blessed Seelos ministered to enslaved Black people and free Blacks over the course of a ministry that included assignments in Baltimore, Annapolis and Cumberland.

Blessed Seelos ultimately gave his life for his people in 1867 when he contracted yellow fever and died while caring for those afflicted with the disease in New Orleans.

"He ministered to people who were marginalized," Scott said. "I work in hospice care and we do work in health, equity and access to care. His story just

resonated with me on so many levels, so I really jumped at the opportunity to work on this statue."

It took Scott a full year to design and sculpt the nearly three-foot statue of Blessed Seelos, which was erected in March at the Shrine of Ss. Peter in Paul. Blessed Seelos walked the very grounds where his likeness now stands, when he served as pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul and prefect of students at a Redemptorist seminary in Cumberland from 1857 to 1862.

The statue is made of an extremely high-grit ceramic, depicting Blessed Seelos with a slight step forward.



This newly installed statue of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos is located at the Shrine of Ss. Peter and Paul in Cumberland. (George P. Matysek Jr./CR Staff)

"So many statues of him show him standing still, stationary or sitting down," Scott said. "I tried to convey this idea of going forward to meet the need – that there's more work to do."

Scott noted that he sculpted the artwork during the coronavirus pandemic.



Wayman Scott IV works on a statue of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos at Baltimore Clayworks in Mount Washington. (Courtesy Wayman Scott IV)

"That step forward is almost like an homage to the healthcare workers and healthcare chaplains who are out there doing the work," he explained. "This piece is to remember him and who he was, but the step forward is considering people who are in some ways stepping into his shoes by serving during a pandemic."

Scott received the commission for the Seelos project after Joseph and Magdalene Sank of the Shrine of Ss. Peter and Paul read a profile of the artist in the *Catholic Review*. They contacted leaders of the Friends of the Shrine, a nonprofit organization that supports the shrine's upkeep and operation, about hiring him for the job.

Paula Schoenadel and David Schoenadel, board members of Friends of the Shrine, worked to build the Seelos shrine, placing the statue inside a stone alcove. Joe George, president of the board, was also supportive.

"It's beautiful," Paula Schoenadel said. "When visitors can't come inside to pray, it's a nice location to sit outdoors, pray and meditate."

Our Lady of the Mountains Parish leaders dedicated the Seelos shrine on October 1st.

## Blessings for the Sick

*Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix  
(Only family members may request)*

### JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL  
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Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (KENNER)  
Linda DiMaggio (504) 287-8732  
Wendy Whittaker (504) 722-0089

OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)  
Mark / Monica Surprenant (504) 895-5371  
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Marie Giorlando (504) 568-0522

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### OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

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Lauren Johnson (281) 851-1321  
Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

# Thank You Blessed Seelos



**For my dad's recovery  
from a brain bleed and  
stroke - Shelly**

**For my cousin's healing from  
a coma and paralysis due to a  
bacterial infection - Roberta**

**For my son finding his way back to God - Darleen**

**For my mother's full  
recovery from pleural  
effusion - Dolores**

**For helping me out when I  
fell into depression due to  
massive debts - Nairobi**

**For my healing from  
full torn patellas in  
both knees due to a car  
collision - Emily**

**For interceding in my  
husband's healing from  
stage 4 esophageal  
cancer - Melanie**

**For comfort and grace, and  
interceding for me to be my  
wife's kidney donor - Jack**

**For interceding in  
the healing of my  
sister-in-law's stage 3  
lung cancer - Denise**

**For praying for my stage 4  
metastatic tumors to shrink –  
I am now cancer free! - Erlinda**

## We're accepting submissions!

**Give Thanks to God & Blessed Seelos on Our Thanksgiving  
Wall at the Shrine! Submit brief words of thanksgiving  
at [www.SEELOS.org/thanks](http://www.SEELOS.org/thanks) or call (504) 525-2495.**

**SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS  
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see SEELOS.org for visiting guidelines.**

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PUBLISHED BY THE REDEMPTORISTS

## Thanksgiving Dinner Blessing

Father, We have gathered to share a meal in Your honor. Thank You for putting us together as family, and thank You for this food. We thank you for all of the gifts you've given to those around this table. Help each member of our family use these gifts to your glory. We thank you and praise you for today and every day you give us. Amen.

[BibleStudyTools.com](http://BibleStudyTools.com)

## HOT IN THE SHOP



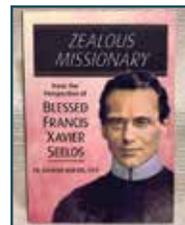
### NEW! REDEMPTORIST CRUCIFIX WITH HOLY MEDALS – \$28

*This 4" tall black and silver-toned crucifix features the distinctive Redemptorist skull and crossbones at the feet of the crucified Jesus, accompanied by three holy medals: Blessed Seelos, St. Michael and a Miraculous Medal.*



### "SWEET ANGEL SCENTS" SEELOS CANDLE – \$26

*8oz organic soy candle hand-poured with holy oil, frankincense and myrrh. Burns up to 25-30 hours.*



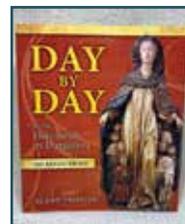
### "ZEALOUS MISSIONARY" BOOK – \$15

*Fr. Rich Boever highlights the struggles and successes of Seelos' life, with a personal touch.*



### PRAYER BOX & ROSARY – \$25

*4" wooden prayer box and rosary. Image choice of the Sacred Heart, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, or the Assumption.*



### "DAY BY DAY FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY" BOOK – \$20

*Prayers and teachings, stories, meditations and quotes from saints.*

*Quantities are limited. Prices include shipping/handling. Prices online and in the Welcome Center Gift Shop may vary.*

## SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE SHRINE



**LIGHT A CANDLE:** A vigil candle will burn near Seelos' sacred resting place for an offering of \$3-\$5. Please visit [SEELOS.org/light-a-votive-candle](http://SEELOS.org/light-a-votive-candle).



**REQUEST A RELIC:** 3rd Class Relics are available in either laminated prayer cards or as a crocheted memento for an offering of \$2.50 each. 2nd Class Relics are available in small envelopes for an offering of \$2.50 each.



**SHOP ONLINE:** Items in the Gift Shop are available at [SEELOS.org/gift-shop](http://SEELOS.org/gift-shop).

**VISIT SEELOS.ORG OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER**



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The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. is a member of the National Association of Shrine and Pilgrimage Apostolate.

## DONATION & CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

I would like to support the Seelos cause by donating \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for:

The ministry and maintenance of the Shrine     My 1-year newsletter subscription renewal (\$12)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to "National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos".*

Please  remove  change my name and address as follows:

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